



Minnesota Valley Action Council, Inc. Head Start Program

05CH8395-000
Annual Report to Public
July 2017 - June 2018

MISSION STATEMENT

Minnesota Valley Action Council, Inc. (MVAC) is a community action agency. We are for communities, not for profit. We have served the people of south central Minnesota since 1965. We believe that hard work should be valued and rewarded, that working people are struggling and that MVAC provides solutions. We develop resources and opportunities that empower people in low-wage work to secure affordable housing, viable transportation, employment, training for employment and educational opportunities for children. MVAC provides services in Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan counties.



MVAC

706 North Victory Drive, Mankato, MN 56001-6803

507-345-6822 or 800-767-7139

Fax: 507-345-2414

www.mnvac.org

This report has been prepared in order to comply with the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007. The Act states that:

"Each Head Start agency shall make available to the public a report published at least once in each fiscal year that discloses the following information from the recently concluded fiscal year, except that reporting such information shall not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual child or parent:

- (A) *The total amount of public and private funds received and the amount from each source*
- (B) *An explanation of budgetary expenditures and proposed budget for the fiscal year.*
- (C) *The total number of children and families served, the average monthly enrollment (as percentage of funded enrollment), and the percentage of eligible children served.*
- (D) *The results of the most recent review by the Secretary and the financial audit.*
- (E) *The percentage of enrolled children that received medical and dental exams.*
- (F) *Information about parent involvement activities.*
- (G) *The agency's efforts to prepare children for kindergarten.*
- (H) *Any other information required by the "Secretary."*

Head Start Philosophy

The early education environment, whether in the home or in a school, should provide a rich variety of activities that will foster the child's physical, developmental, social and emotional growth. Families are encouraged to be equal partners in their child's learning and development. The potential for learning is greatest during the early years of a child's life; therefore, learning opportunities should be provided to children at the earliest age possible.

HEAD START FUNDING SOURCES for April 1, 2017 -June 30, 2018

Federal Head Start Grant April 1-March 31

State Head Start Grant July 1 - June 30

MN Dept of Education Pathway II Early Learning Scholarships July 1 - June 30

Total: 586 children (467 federal; 95 state; 7 CSBG, 17 MDE Pathway II)

Federal Head Start Funds	\$3,275,517
Federal Training & Technical Assistance Funds	\$41,409
Minnesota Head Start Funds	\$789,001
CSBG (Community Services Block Grant)	\$50,000
MN Dept of Education Early Learning Scholarships	\$165,000
Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP food Reimbursement)	<u>\$135,771</u>

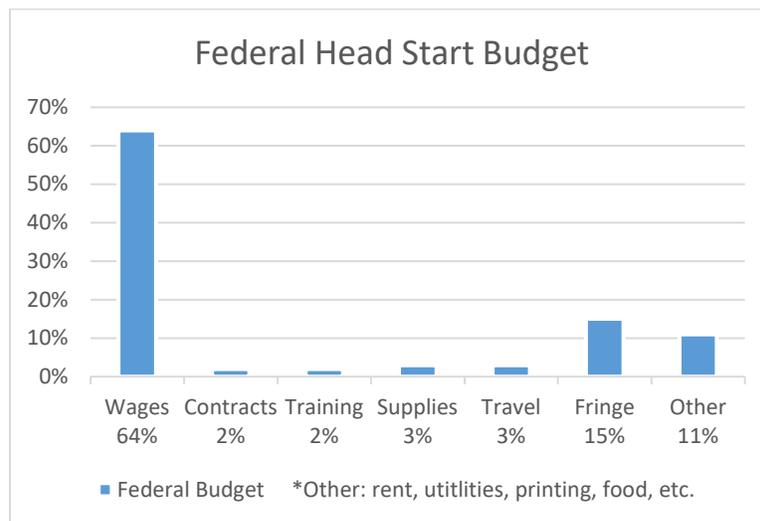
Total \$\$ \$4,456,698

Non- Federal Share (In-kind) 20% Match:

\$791,802 Required

\$979,616 Total collected

- Rent (\$584,395)
- Volunteer time (\$395,056)
- Goods/materials donated (\$165)



Head Start Employees = 111

Program Volunteers = 1,423

ENROLLMENT

- Total actual enrollment for the year was 682 (including all adds & drops). 541 were federal kids, 141 were state kids. 87% of the federal participants (470) were income eligible; 13% (71) were over-income.
- Except for the months of Sept and Oct 2017 and May 2018, we maintained 100% full federal enrollment of 467 each month.
- Average monthly child attendance 88.6%
- 12 pregnant women were served in 2017-18.

MONITORING REVIEWS

- Our program had no scheduled reviews in the past year from either federal or state funding sources.

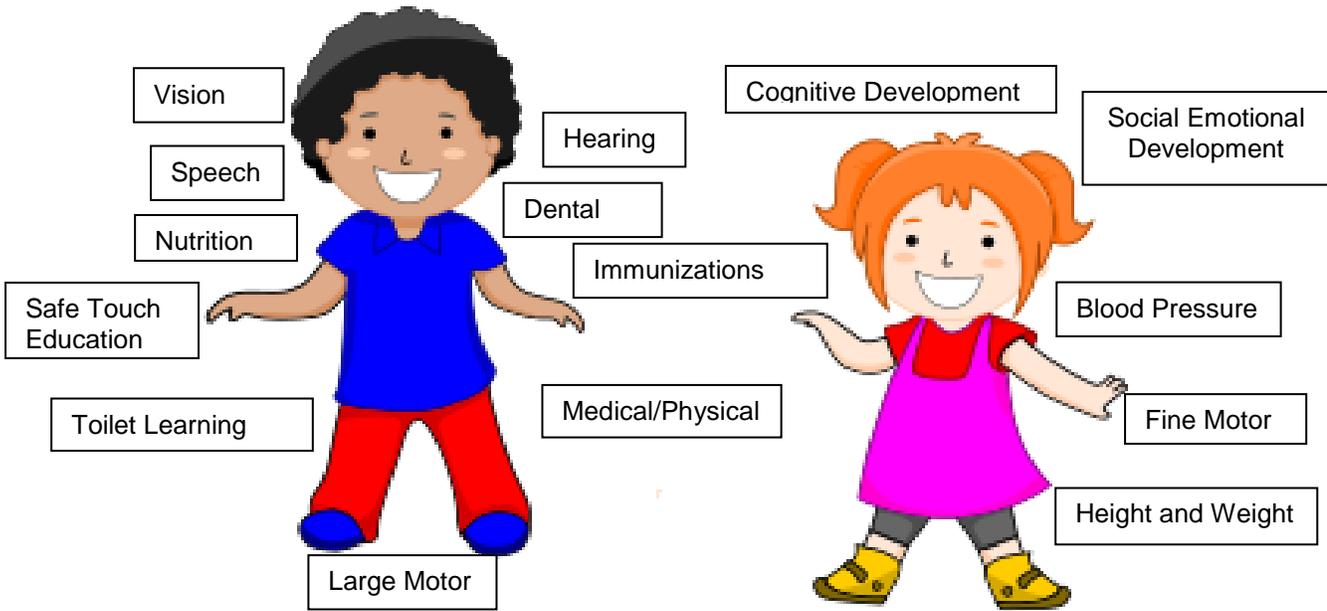
MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXAM RATE

- 87% children received a medical exam and 78% of the children received a dental exam.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT

- Minnesota Valley Action Council, Inc. contracts for and receives a required annual audit. There were no findings from the July 2018 audit. MVAC is considered low risk & compliant with generally accepted accounting practices.

MVAC Head Start's Whole Child Approach



Head Start has adopted the “whole child” approach to school readiness. School readiness includes five developmental areas that are important to a child’s readiness for school: approaches to learning, social and emotional development, language and literacy, cognition and perceptual, motor and physical development.

Our staff will be looking at any area that could affect a child’s normal development towards school readiness - including but not limited to medical & dental conditions, nutritional needs, vision & hearing results, and the home environment. By providing support to the family, Head Start can help prepare each child for school success by recognizing that all these areas are connected and help shape a child and their family for future success even beyond school.

Head Start programs prepare America’s most vulnerable young children to succeed in school and in life beyond school.

To achieve this, MVAC delivers Head Start comprehensive services to children and families in core areas of early learning, health, and family well-being while engaging parents as partners every step of the way.

Head Start’s comprehensive approach to school readiness has been proven successful for the past 50+ years and ensures the services to the child & family include much more than just education and sets us apart from other early learning environments.

“If kids come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families, it makes our job easier. If they do not come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families, it makes our job more important.” -Barbara Colorose

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Parent & family engagement is the cornerstone of Head Start. It is our philosophy that the *Parent* is the first *Teacher* of their child.
- MVAC functions under the Head Start Parent, Family & Community Engagement Framework (PFCE) which emphasizes 7 family outcomes which results in positive & goal-oriented relationships. Staff help the family be successful as parents & to achieve goals, dreams & ambitions.

1. Family Well-Being

Parents and families are safe, healthy, and have increased financial security.



2. Positive Parent-Child Relationships

Beginning with transitions to parenthood, parents and families develop warm relationships that nurture their child's learning and development.



3. Families as Lifelong Educators

Parents and families observe, guide, promote, and participate in the everyday learning of their children at home, school and in their communities.



4. Families as Learners

Parents and families advance their own learning interests through education, training and other experiences that support their parenting, careers, and life goals.



5. Family Engagement in Transitions

Parents and families support and advocate for their child's learning and development as they transition to a new learning environment, including Early Head Start (EHS) to Head Start, EHS/Head Start to other early learning environments, and Head Start to Kindergarten through elementary school.

6. Family Connections to Peers and Community

Parents and families form connections with peers and mentors in formal or informal social networks that are supportive and/or educational and that enhance social well-being and community life.



7. Families as Advocates and Leaders

Parents and families participate in leadership development, decision-making, program policy development, or community and state organizing activities to improve children's development and learning experiences.

EARLY LEARNING

- MVAC offers Head Start home-based programming, along with center and combination-based options in our 9 county service area.
- MVAC's Head Start program uses The Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG) child assessment tool.
- MVAC received funding (\$203,005.68) from the MN Dept of Education to serve children with Pathway II Early Learning Scholarships at our licensed center-based locations in Mankato, St. Peter, New Ulm, Le Center, Fairmont, Blue Earth, Waseca & St. James. These scholarships allowed us to serve extra children from off our wait list, provide enhancements such as extra support staff in the classrooms, extended day services, bussing, and special parent & family events.
- Our New Ulm, Blue Earth & Le Center classroom sites provided all-day services at 6.5 hours each day, 5 days per week.
- MVAC utilized the staff-child interaction observation tools CLASS (CLASSroom Assessment Scoring System) and HOVRS (HOMe Visiting Rating Scale) to assess quality staff-child interactions.
- There were 216 kindergarten-aged children that transitioned out of Head Start in May 2018.

HEALTH SERVICES

- Number of children at the end of enrollment year with health insurance: 531
- Number of children at the end of enrollment year up to date on all immunizations: 494
- 420 preschool children received preventative dental care

Ensured that
538 children
were
screened for
hearing and
vision

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- 36 children were referred by the program for mental health services outside of Head Start.

DISABILITIES

- 119 total preschool children, or 22% of the children served in our Head Start program, had diagnosed disabilities.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- 245 fathers/father figures were involved in their child's Head Start experiences such as home visits, and/or parent-teacher conferences.
- 501 families received services throughout the program year such as housing assistance, health education, parenting education, mental health services, adult education/GED/ESL, job training, asset building, etc.
- MVAC served 36 homeless children and 16 foster children in the Head Start program.

TRANSPORTATION

- MVAC provided bussing to 261 Head Start children in the last school year.

BIRTH-3 HOME BASE

- MVAC receives State monies to operate a Birth-3 Home Base program. We serve 95 slots and includes the counties of Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Waseca and Watonwan Counties.
- This program option uses Teaching Strategies GOLD online assessment tool to monitor appropriate child growth & progress for school readiness of the infants & toddlers served and uses Growing Great Kids curriculum on home visits.
- The Birth-3 program served 29 children with a diagnosed disability or 20.5% of the total enrollment.

"Early childhood education begins early, even before birth."

WHAT OUR PARENTS SAY ABOUT HEAD START:

In spring 2018, Head Start parents were asked to fill out a Parent Program Evaluation. 569 evaluations were given out and 277 (49%) families responded. Some comments that were written by Head Start families:

"I love this school a lot, my son learns a lot of English now. I learn a lot on how I can be a great mother."

"Our time this year has been good, my son showed great improvement."

"Very good program, it has helped not only my daughter but our whole family to be better parents and learning."

"I am very grateful for this program and my daughter has had a great experience thus far."

"The staff are so great and very caring. I don't know what we would do without them! They have assisted my family and we grew even more! The bus driver also was very nice and my son looked forward to seeing him as he taught him what the buttons mean, he is amazing!"

"Very thankful that they help my child and she loves being there."

"She learns a lot, is happy to socialize, comes home and talks about what she learns and sings songs."



AGENCY'S EFFORTS TO PREPARE CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN

- Program Long Range Goal: 80% of Head Start children will meet the targeted score for School Readiness in the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment (TSG) tool by spring observation period.
- MVAC continues to maintain its Four-Star Accelerated MN Parent Aware Rating for all our center/combo licensed classroom sites.
- The Head Start program uses the Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers, Teaching Strategies GOLD online assessment tool, and IGDl's (Individual Growth & Development Indicators) to show growth & progress of an individual child, classroom and the overall program.
- We collect & report outcomes data on all children 3 times per year, have conferences with each parent and submit the data to our funding sources and community partners.
- MVAC uses the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five and is designed to represent the continuum of learning for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. This Framework is grounded in a comprehensive body of research regarding what young children should know and be able to do during these formative years.

Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework

CENTRAL DOMAINS					
	APPROACHES TO LEARNING	SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	COGNITION	PERCEPTUAL, MOTOR, AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
▲ INFANT/TODDLER DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Cognition	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
● PRESCHOOLER DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Mathematics Development	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
			Literacy	Scientific Reasoning	

**MVAC's Head Start School Readiness Goals
2017-2018**

MVAC's Head Start School Readiness Goals for Ages 0-5

Physical Development and Health

- Children will control small muscles for manipulation and exploring.
- Children will control large muscles for movement, navigation and balance.
- Children will learn and demonstrate appropriate self-health, nutrition and safety habits.

Social and Emotional Development

- Children will develop healthy relationships and interactions with adults and peers.
- Children will participate cooperatively in groups, display self-regulation skills and internalize classroom rules, routines and directions.

Approaches to Learning

- Children will use curiosity, engagement and persistence to extend their learning.
- Children will engage in diverse approaches to learning that reflects social and cultural contexts such as biology, family history, culture and individual learning styles.
- Children will learn and use words to describe what they are thinking and doing.

Language and Literacy

- Children will listen to and understand language. (receptive)
- Children will use increasingly complex and varied vocabulary when speaking. (expressive)
- Children who are dual language learners will demonstrate progress in the ability to listen, understand and speak English and home language.
- Children will engage appropriately with stories and books and show an appreciation and knowledge of how print works.

Cognition and General Knowledge

- Children will use math in everyday routines and experiences.
- Children will engage in exploring their environment through observation and manipulation to gain a better understanding of information and activities in their surroundings.
Children will use their skills in remembering information and connecting new and known experiences and information.



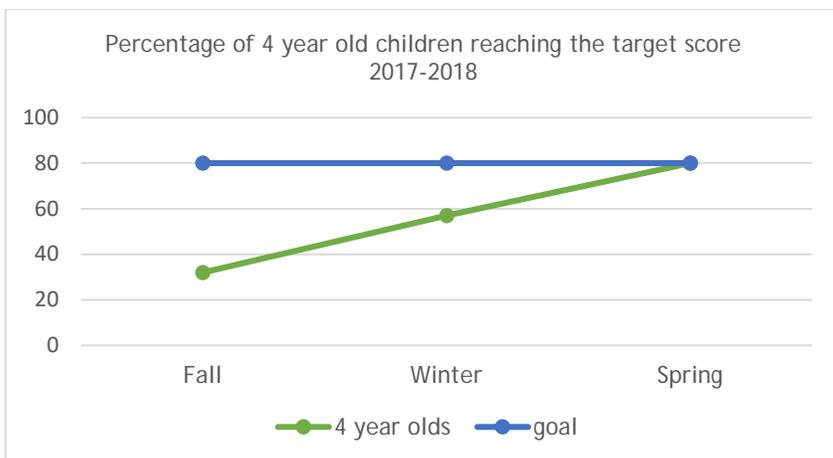
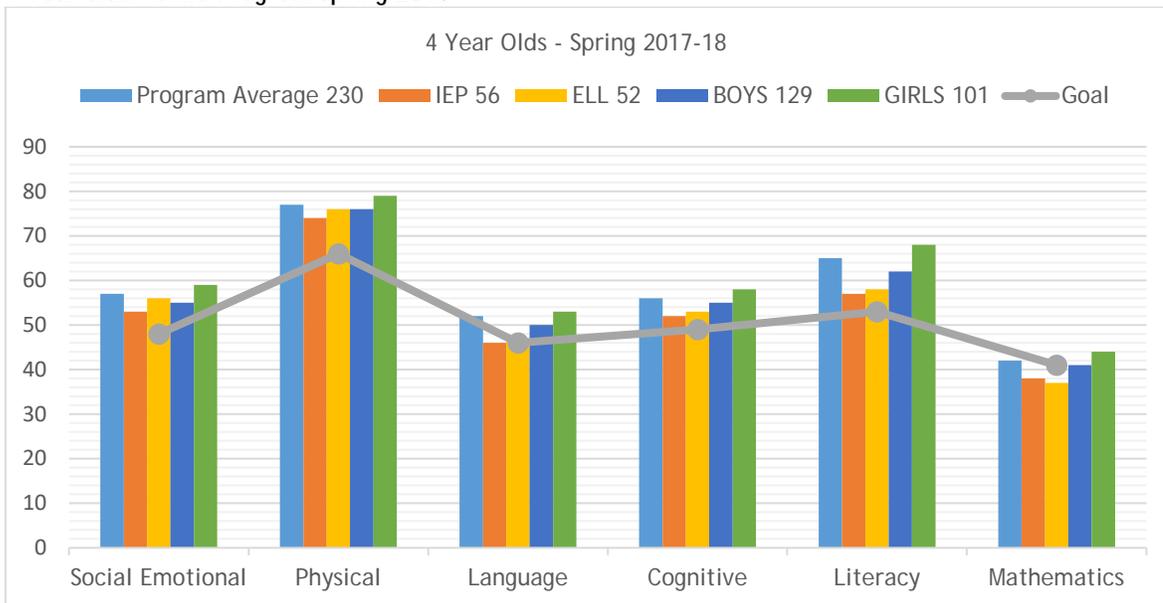
**Teaching Strategies GOLD Child Outcomes Assessment Data
MVAC 2017-2018 School Year
Agency Efforts to Prepare Children for School**

Program Long Range Goal: 80% of Head Start children will meet the targeted score for School Readiness in the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment (TSG) tool

The 4 year old children (256) served in MVAC's Head Start programs in the spring of the 2017-18 year that met the Target Score in each area:

	Fall 2017	Winter	Spring 2018
Social Emotional	46%	69%	86%
Physical	52%	69%	90%
Language	43%	65%	82%
Cognitive	41%	67%	80%
Literacy	23%	54%	73%
Math	14%	35%	57%

4 Year olds - Child Progress Spring 2018

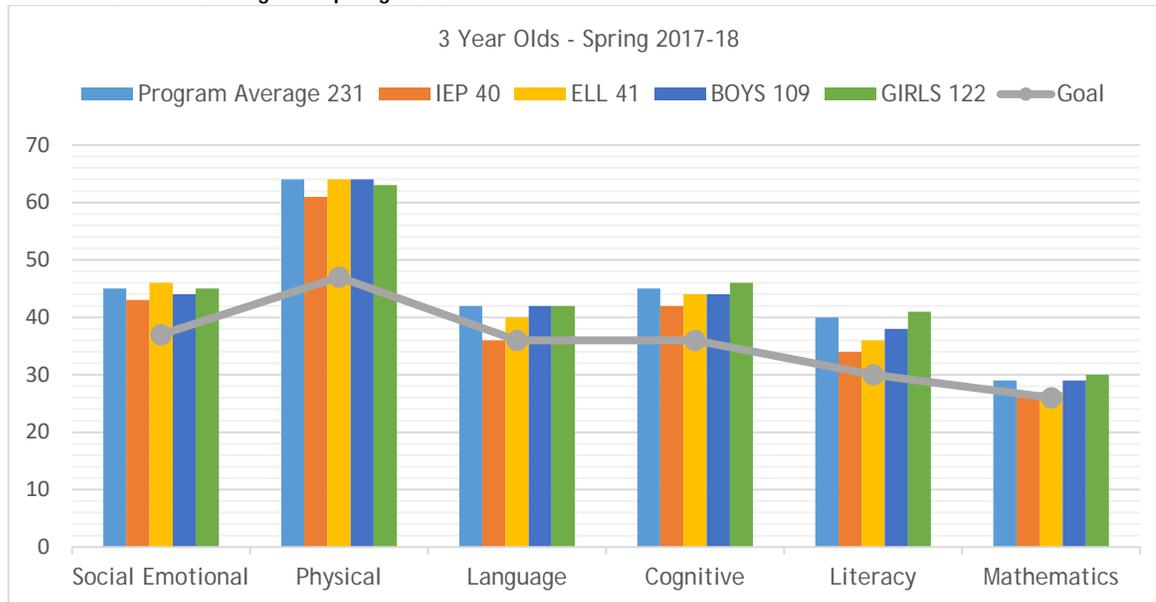


"Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be." -Rita Pierson

The 3 year old children (261) served in MVAC's Head Start programs in the spring of the 2017-18 year that met the Target Score:

	Fall 2017	Winter	Spring 2018
Social Emotional	50%	77%	82%
Physical	73%	92%	94%
Language	55%	78%	81%
Cognitive	64%	86%	90%
Literacy	33%	62%	75%
Math	23%	50%	66%

3 Year olds - Child Progress Spring 2018



*Data collected from Teaching Strategies GOLD online assessment tool

Head Start WORKS for children, families and communities!

